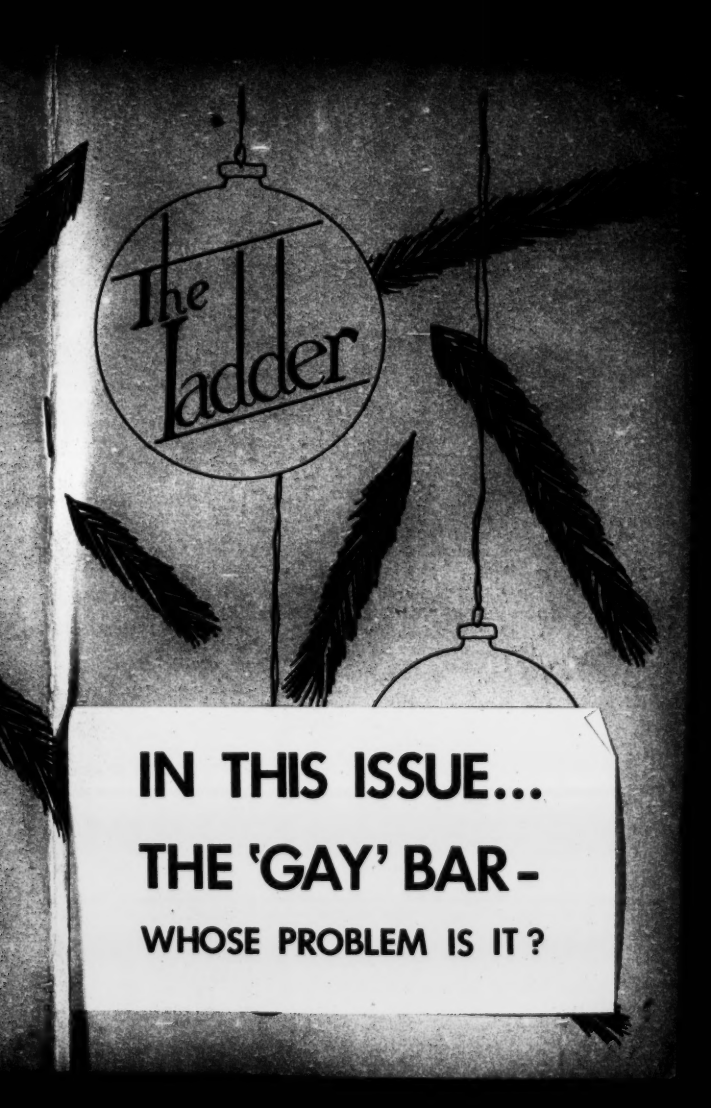

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THE 'GAY' BAR -

WHOSE PROBLEM IS IT?

purpose of the

Daughters of BILITIS

A WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL INTO SOCIETY BY:

1. Education of the variant, with particular emphasis on the psychological, physiological and sociological aspects, to enable her to understand herself and make her adjustment to society in all its social, civic and economic implications—this to be accomplished by establishing and maintaining as complete a library as possible of both fiction and non-fiction literature on the sex deviant theme; by sponsoring public discussions on pertinent subjects to be conducted by leading members of the legal, psychiatric, religious and other professions; by advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society.

2. Education of the public at large through acceptance first of the individual, leading to an eventual breakdown of erroneous taboos and prejudices; through public discussion meetings aforementioned; through dissemination of educational literature on the homosexual theme.

3. Participation in research projects by duly authorized and responsible psychologists, sociologists and other such experts directed towards further knowledge of the homosexual.

4. Investigation of the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual, proposal of changes to provide an equitable handling of cases involving this minority group, and promotion of these changes through due process of law in the state legislatures.

the Ladder

DECEMBER 1959
VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3

Published monthly by the Daughters of Bilitis, Inc., a non-profit corporation, 165 O'Farrell Street, Room 405, San Francisco 2, California. Telephone YUkon 2-9290.

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THE STAFF OF THE LADDER SENDS YOU ALL -

Holiday Greetings

EDITORIAL

THE 'GAY' BAR -

Whose Problem is it?

While Sidney Feinberg, Alcoholic Beverage Control administrator for the North Coast area in California, announced a vigorous new campaign against bars catering to homosexuals, State Director Thomas W. Martin denied charges that San Francisco bars provide a haven for homosexuals in an address at the 22nd annual convention of the National Alcoholic Beverage Control Association.

Feinberg stated that a dozen undercover agents are at work gathering evidence to root out homosexual bars in the Bay Area. Lower courts have held that mere patronage of a bar by homosexuals is not sufficient grounds for revocation of a license, he said, and agents will be looking for examples of disorderly operations in bars suspected of catering to homosexuals in an effort to gain a Supreme Court ruling in the ABC's favor.

Meanwhile Martin pointed out that since 1954 the ABC has taken action against 821 violations in the San Francisco division (which includes Marin and San Mateo counties), of which only 14 bars were charged as being haunts of homosexuals - certainly a small percentage of total liquor law violations.

And Feinberg himself pointed out that of San Francisco's 1340 saloons, only 25 or 30 cater willingly to homosexuals.

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

To understand this seemingly paradoxical "gay" bar situation in California, it is necessary to review the long-standing battle involving the ABC, the state legislature and the courts.

In 1951 culminating the Stoumen v. Reilly case in which the Black Cat Restaurant had been closed on grounds that the plaintiff "kept and permitted his licensed premises to be used as a disorderly house in that ... persons of known homosexual tendencies patronized said premises and used said premises as a meeting place", the California State Supreme Court ruled such evidence as insufficient and that "good cause" for suspension of a license must indicate something more than that many of the patrons were homosexuals and that they used the restaurant and bar as a meeting place. The Court decision also pointed out that the liquor board must supply sufficient evidence and that it should not act arbitrarily in determining what is contrary to public welfare or morals.

The Court stated, "Members of the public of lawful age have a right to patronize a public restaurant and bar so long as they are acting properly and are not committing illegal or immoral acts; the proprietor has no right to exclude or eject a patron 'except for good cause', and if he does so without good cause he is liable in damages."

This unanimous decision would clearly indicate that there is nothing illegal about a "gay" bar per se and that a license could be revoked only if there was sufficient evidence to prove that there were illegal or immoral acts committed on the premises.

STATE LEGISLATURE NOT SATISFIED

However, in what would appear to be an attempt to overturn the Stoumen v. Reilly decision, the state legislature in 1955 enacted Section 24200(e) of the Business and Professional Code providing that a license may be suspended or revoked where the premises "are a resort for illegal possessors or users of narcotics, prostitutes, pimps, panderers, or sexual perverts."

It is on the basis of this section that the 14 bars mentioned by Mr. Feinberg were cited by the ABC. Many of these cases are still pending in the courts - including that of the Black Cat, and it would seem that Morris Lowenthal who represented Stoumen in the 1951 case will once again be forced to seek a ruling from the State Supreme Court, this time on the constitutionality of the new statute.

APPELLATE COURT DECISION

In the case of Vallerga v. Munro earlier this year the California First District Court of Appeal upheld the Stoumen v. Reilly decision of the State Supreme Court stating, "It must, therefore, be accepted that, under Section 24200(e), a license may not be suspended or revoked simply because homosexuals or sexual perverts patronize the bar in question. Before such deprivation can occur there must be improper, illegal, disgusting or immoral acts of conduct committed on the premises to the knowledge of the licensee. As already pointed out, unless Section 24200(e) is so interpreted, there would be grave doubts as to its constitutionality. The Stoumen case was interpreting what constitutes 'good cause' for the revocation of a license under the Constitution. This constituted a limitation on the Legislature as well as on the administrative board. The only way that the constitutionality of Section 24200(e) could be saved was to assume that the Legislature was not attempting to overrule the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution, but was acting in conformity thereto."

HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR CLARIFIED BY COURT

The Appellate Court in the Vallerga decision went on to clarify what was merely homosexual behavior pointing out that these acts were not of themselves immoral, indecent, disgusting or improper. Here are some excerpts:

"All of the police officials laid great emphasis upon the fact that the majority of female customers were dressed in mannish attire, and that the patrons of the bar usually paired off men with men, and women with women. These facts, if entitled to any legal significance, merely emphasized

the fact that the patrons were homosexuals or Lesbians. Of themselves, these acts did not amount to immoral, indecent, disgusting or improper acts. They merely tended to prove that the patrons were homosexuals, a fact the licensee admitted. That fact alone, for reasons already stated, did not justify revoking the license."

"Several of the police officers testified that, on occasion, women were observed dancing with, and kissing, other women. This is not necessarily offensive, illegal or improper conduct that would justify the revocation of the license."

"The most damaging testimony was given by a policewoman who went to the bar as an undercover agent. She testified that she sat at a table and that a patron dressed in mannish costume sat down and stated to her, 'You're a cute little butch.' Later in the evening this patron kissed the witness. A waitress of the establishment, Buddy by name, came by and warned the participants that if they wanted to continue such activity they should go into the rest room. Other than through this waitress, there was no evidence the licensees knew of this activity or that they had been told of it. The officer did not complain to anyone about this conduct."

"Another police officer (who had been in the bar 10 times) on one occasion observed a display of affection between two men. He observed these two embrace and whisper to each other with their foreheads touching. He heard one of the men state to the bartender, 'Arley and I are going steady.' There was no evidence that the acts of affection between the two men were or should have been observed by the licensees or their employees."

"This is a fair summary of the alleged misconduct that was observed during the nine-month period. Some of the officers visited the bar during this period almost daily, while others were present several times a week. At most, the conduct observed indicated that the patrons were homosexuals.'

CIVIL RIGHTS OF HOMOSEXUALS ESTABLISHED

As pointed out by Attorney Lowenthal, whose firm acted as Amici Curiae on behalf of the appellants in the Vallerga

case, "Although these decisions technically are confined to issues involving the revocation of a liquor license, indirectly they have established the existence and scope and nature of the civil rights of homosexuals, under the Civil Rights Statute of California, and the line of reasoning adopted in these decisions may very well be picked up in later cases that are not related to liquor license matters."

However, the battle is not yet over. The State Attorney General's office indicated utter dismay at the outcome of the Vallerga case and announced plans to carry the issue to the State Supreme Court. Civil rights for homosexuals are not easily won, however justified they may be.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

It would seem to us that the California Supreme Court would again be forced to reiterate its pronouncement in all "gay" bar cases pending that homosexuals have a right to go into public restaurants and bars and be served, and further that they have a right to meet socially or congregate. If such is the case, Section 24200(e) would necessarily be ruled unconstitutional, and the Legislature and the Alcoholic Beverage Control administration would be forced to realize that in order to persecute the homosexual further, "good cause" must be proved.

But the answer doesn't rest there. For then we have visions of the ABC continuing to spend the taxpayers' hard-earned money just to prove the point of "good cause" to the satisfaction of the courts. This could result in an endless round of bar closings and court debates without actually solving the problem - as we have witnessed in the past.

May we suggest that all those concerned - bar managers, state legislators and ABC administrators, and homosexuals themselves - take a realistic look at the situation?

'GAY' BARS WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST

Our first premise would be that the "gay" bar per se cannot be legislated out of existence. Closing of bars on grounds that they cater to homosexuals is unconstitutional

and continuance of this practice merely amounts to harrassment of a particular group of American citizens. This harrassment has not been effective in ridding our cities of such bars, for it is a well known fact that when one bar is closed, another springs up over night.

This point is best expressed in the closing brief presented by Attorneys Morris Lowenthal, Juliet Lowenthal and Karl D. Lyon as Amici Curiae on behalf of the appellants in the Vallerga case:

"Finally, we call attention to certain other aspects of the issue posed by the respondent. At the close of respondent's brief, it is contended that Section 24200(e) is intended to remove the 'congregation' of homosexuals but they 'are free to visit bars where the temptation from others of their kind may not be as great.'

"This assertion is an admission that if the ABC succeeds in closing all bars that are claimed to be resorts for homosexuals, it will not and cannot 'stamp out homosexuality' but will simply drive homosexuals to other bars. Furthermore, it is an admission that the legislation (under respondent's interpretation) is clearly an attempt to limit personal liberty and the 'freedom of association' and 'freedom to assemble' which all persons have as a constitutional and statutory right.

"The practical adverse effects of supporting respondent's interpretation of Section 24200(e) cannot be underestimated. It would not only result in a deprivation of the civil rights of the patrons involved, but it will cause irreparable loss to the individual licensees who would have no control over the situation.

"The adverse effects will be cumulative and widespread. Homosexual activities will not be diminished, nor will drinking by such people be discouraged. On the other hand, homosexuals would be required to transfer their patronage to other bars, including hotel bars, where they could not be refused service. These bars, in turn, will have their own licenses jeopardized by ABC proceedings against them, and a never-ending process will be initiated, which presumably could continue ad infinitum until,

theoretically at least, all bars would be closed. Such a ridiculous result was never intended by the Legislature and such a possibility should not be sanctioned by the Courts - certainly not where human values and civil rights are endangered."

CONTRARY TO PUBLIC WELFARE OR MORALS?

The basic premise of the ABC would appear to be that the "gay" bar in general is a "disorderly house for purposes injurious to public morals". And while we have cited cases above where they were unable to make this charge stick, we must also point out that such a ruling was upheld in the Kershaw case because "there was evidence of illegal and immoral conduct on the part of patrons to the knowledge of the licensees sufficient to sustain the revocation". Likewise in the Nickola case there was ample evidence of improper conduct on the premises, and of the licensee's knowledge of such conduct.

The problem of conduct on public premises is thus the real issue - not the "resort for homosexuals" itself as posed by the Legislature and the ABC.

We must agree that "seeking sexual satisfaction in a public tavern", as proved in the Kershaw and Nickola cases, is offensive to public morals and decency. Such conduct in public is as offensive to the average homosexual as to the average heterosexual. It should also be stated that such conduct is the exception to the rule in the case of the homosexual as in the case of the heterosexual.

We contend, too, that the average "gay" bar is not contrary to the public welfare. To meet, drink, eat or chat in a congenial atmosphere is all that most homosexuals are looking for in a "gay" bar. In a society which demands repression of his or her true nature, such association with others sharing the same problem is one of release and mental health - continued isolation and denial would indeed effect a public liability.

WHAT ABOUT BAR MANAGEMENT?

As regards conduct in the bars, the problem in large

measure rests with bar management. All too often, as Administrator Feinberg points out, bar owners accept homosexual patronage as a means of stepping up business. Their concern becomes one of making a "fast buck" before the ABC steps in, and in so doing they nurture the "anything goes" philosophy to appeal to the hordes.

If the bar owner wishes to keep his place open and yet cultivate a homosexual following, it would behoove him to set up some "house rules". Certainly misconduct on the part of the patrons can be controlled and the offenders barred from the premises without a decline in receipts.

Recommended reading for all "gay" bar owners is Helen Branson's book, "Gay Bar", published by Pan-Graphic Press. The book demonstrates that contrary to folklore there can be a wholesome atmosphere in this type of bar. Copies of this volume may be obtained through the DOB (see ad on page 26).

THE ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE

To date the ABC has concentrated its efforts of law enforcement against "gay" bars per se - without any attempt to differentiate between activity which merely points to the fact that the patrons are homosexuals and activity which is actually contrary to the public welfare or morals.

We submit that the police vice squads, the state legislators and the ABC administrators should take a realistic look at the facts. There are many thousands of homosexuals in every large city throughout the country. They are human beings - more like the rest of the populace than different. They are citizens of these United States and as such are entitled to those civil rights set forth under the provisions of our Constitution.

"No amount of condemnation, criticism, entrapment or incarceration in penal and mental institutions can wipe out the fact of the existence of this tremendously large minority," states Dr. Blanche M. Baker, psychiatrist, in her introduction to the book, "Gay Bar".

The following passage taken from the Vallerga brief also sums up some pertinent facts:

"Man's inhumanity to man has shown itself no clearer than in common attitudes toward so-called homosexuals. Yet persons with homosexual inclinations are not ipso facto criminals or detrimental to civilization, nor are they necessarily afflicted by disease, nor do they comprise a small proportion of the population which can be isolated and contained, nor can homosexuality be stamped out by repressive measures out of all proportions to the public good, nor is homosexuality as such intrinsically evil. All these factors and others, which demonstrate the arbitrariness of officially making homosexuals outcasts and denying them the equal right to frequent licensed restaurants and bars on the same terms as other adult citizens, have been definitely established by eminent authorities."

Throughout the brief there are quotes from such "eminent authorities" as Kinsey, Judge Morris Ploscowe, Dr. Karl Bowman, Dr. Norman Rieder and Morris L. Ernst. Their statements would bear out the contention of the appellants and their attorneys.

We contend that "gay" bars per se are not harmful to society and that discrimination against those establishments whose clientele is largely made up of homosexuals is not only unconstitutional but also pointless.

We also believe that the role of the ABC in protecting the public decency is just and necessary. We certainly do not condone any illicit behavior and believe that the bar management should require of all patrons strict compliance with the law. Open and obvious activity involving the genitals of persons in the bar, as was established in the evidence of the Kershaw case, should be prosecuted. And here is the role of the administrative forces - not in the mere persecution of homosexuals.

The existing attitude of law enforcement officials towards "gay" bars is not unique with California. It was noted in the November 11th issue of the "Village Voice" in New York City that the license of "Lenny's Hideaway"

had been revoked by that state's Liquor Authority, the action being "based on findings that the premises had become disorderly in that homosexuals were allowed to congregate within."

There is no reason, however, why California officials should not take the lead in the attempt to solve this ever-growing social problem. If they were to accept the existence of the "gay" bar and acknowledge the civil right of the homosexual to socialize while eating or drinking in a public place, but still make it clear to the bar management and its clientele that immoderate behavior will not be tolerated, we believe that a workable solution to the problem would result.

THE HOMOSEXUAL'S RESPONSIBILITY

Whether or not the bar management or law enforcement agencies agree with our basic premise or comply with our suggestions concerning "gay" bars does not lessen the responsibility of the homosexual in any way. Since the average homosexual does not identify himself as such in his daily contact with the public, it is only on the basis of conduct in "gay" bars that an entire segment of the population can be judged. If immoderate behavior exists in these places, who can blame those who would assume that this is the criterion of the entire group? For there is no other measuring rod available to the public at large.

In the closing brief prepared by the Amici Curiae for the Vallerga case, there is this reference:

"In passing, it should be noted that it is a fact that most Lesbians do not dress in male attire and cannot be identified as Lesbians by their attire. It may also be granted that those who do dress in male attire probably do so as a gesture of defiance to society for imposing sanctions on a way of life over which they have no control. In fact, the Lesbian organization in San Francisco known as the Daughters of Bilitis, described elsewhere in this brief, is presently carrying on an educa-

(Continued on page 24)

LESBIANA

116. THE LION HOUSE BY MARJORIE LEE. RINEHART, 1959.

MAJOR LESBIAN NOVEL FOR 1959. JO, 46, THE NARRATOR, TELLS OF THE ABORTIVE BUT BEAUTIFUL LOVE AFFAIR BETWEEN HERSELF AND FRANNIE, AGED 30. BOTH ARE MARRIED WOMEN CAUGHT IN CONVENTIONAL SUBURBIA; BOTH ARE REPRESSED LESBIANS UNTIL THEY MEET AND THE FIREWORKS BEGIN. BEAUTIFUL WRITING AND EXCELLENT PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS ENHANCE THIS FIRST NOVEL.

117. THE ISLAND AT THE END OF THE WORLD BY HENRI CROUZAT. DUELL, SLOAN & PEARCE, 1959.

THREE NURSES AND ONE MAN ARE MAROONED ON AN ISLAND DURING WORLD WAR II. ONE OF THE WOMEN IS A LESBIAN, DESCRIBED AS VERY BEAUTIFUL YET VERY MASCULINE. ONE WOMAN IS A NYMPHOMANIAC; THE THIRD IS A SIMPLE FARM GIRL. THE COMPLICATIONS ARE MANY AND VARIED. TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH, THE BOOK IS VERY WELL WRITTEN, WITH A TOUCH OF THE MACABRE.

118. THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE BY SHIRLEY JACKSON. VIKING, 1959.

IN 1951 THIS AUTHOR GAVE US THE UNREAL AND LOVELY STORY "HANGSAMAN". NOW, EIGHT YEARS LATER, SHE HAS BROUGHT TO US A BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN AND HAUNTING LESBIAN LOVE AFFAIR LAID IN A HAUNTED HOUSE. PERHAPS THIS IS A GHOST STORY, PERHAPS A MODERN "REBECCA" OR PERHAPS A SEMINAR ON PSYCHOLOGY. WHATEVER IT IS TO EACH WHO READS IT, IT WILL BE A MOVING AND PERHAPS THRILLING EXPERIENCE.

119. HOMICIDE IS MY GAME BY STEPHEN MARLOWE. FAWCETT, 1959.

FAST PACED MURDER MYSTERY FROM THE HARDBOILED SCHOOL. LESBIAN IS CENTRAL FIGURE THOUGH THE FACT ISN'T APPARENT AT FIRST. LOTS OF ACTION AND MEDIOCRE WRITING. PLOT TURNS ON A LESBIAN AXIS AND WITHOUT THE ALL-IMPORTANT GIRL THERE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY STORY.

120. ALLAN'S WIFE BY H. RIDER HAGGARD. DOVER, 1951 (FIRST PUBLISHED IN ENGLAND IN 1889).

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS, FROM SUCH A WRITER OF WILD ADVENTURE YARNS, THIS NOVEL INCLUDES A POWERFUL VARIANT ATTACHMENT WITH OVERT LESBIAN OVERTONES BETWEEN ALLAN'S WIFE, STELLA, AND HER CONSTANT COMPANION, HENDRIKA. THE ATTACHMENT IS SO STRONG THAT HENDRIKA ATTEMPTS TO KILL ALLAN AND, WHEN THIS FAILS, SHE AND HER BABOON FRIENDS KIDNAP STELLA AND CARRY HER OFF, LITERALLY SWINGING THROUGH THE TREES.

121. DEAR DEADLY BELOVED BY JOHN FLAGG. FAWCETT, 1954. (GOLD MEDAL BOOK NOW OUT OF PRINT BUT CAN BE OBTAINED AT ANY SECOND HAND PAPERBACK STORE.)

THIS IS AN EARLIER BOOK BY THE AUTHOR OF "MURDER IN MONACO" (FAWCETT, 1957) AND CONCERNS A DOPE RING IN ITALY. THE CAST ABOUNDS WITH GAY BOYS, FEMALE IMPERSONATORS AND LESBIANS. THERE IS ONE VERY SYMPATHETIC LESBIAN COUPLE INVOLVED, AND WHEN ALL THE MURDER AND INTRIGUE IS RESOLVED BABS WENTWORTH AND LORNA PARKS HAVE A VERY HAPPY ENDING.

122. BLACKBERRY WILDERNESS BY SYLVIA BERKMAN. DOUBLEDAY, 1959.

THE TITLE STORY OF THIS COLLECTION OF ESOTERIC, MELANCHOLY, TECHNICALLY PERFECT, BEAUTIFULLY EXECUTED STORIES CONCERNS THE UNREQUITED PASSION A SENSITIVE 17-YEAR-OLD GIRL FEELS FOR A FRIEND AND CLASSMATE. TOLD THROUGH THE EYES OF AN OLDER WOMAN TEACHER WHO IS WHOLLY SYMPATHETIC.

123. THE JEWEL IN THE LOTUS BY ALLEN EDWARDES. JULIAN PRESS, NEW YORK, 1959.

WELL-WRITTEN SURVEY OF THE SEXUAL CULTURE OF THE EAST PRIMARILY INTENDED FOR THE INTERESTED LAYMAN AND ARRANGED IN A LOGICAL MANNER FOR EASY READING. INTRODUCTION BY ALBERT ELLIS. THE SECTIONS ON MALE AND FEMALE HOMOSEXUALITY ARE WRITTEN IN AN UNBIASED AND EQUITABLE MANNER. AUTHOR FEELS THE FROZEN WESTERN CIVILIZATIONS COULD LEARN MUCH FROM THE GUILTLESS EASTERN ATTITUDES.

The Prince's Predicament

A Fairy Story by NIK

Once upon a time there was a young prince named Prince Gaylord.

At least, he had been born a prince. But when he was still just a child, the wicked Fairy-Who-Likes-To-Make-Confusion changed him into a princess. His parents, the King and Queen of Neglectland, had many sons and daughters and had never really taken a close look at Gaylord, so the change went undetected for many years. When at the age of 13 it became obvious that the young prince was a princess, the only one who noticed it was his governess, Miss D'Meaner, who was old, absentminded and nearsighted besides and who dismissed the whole matter by telling herself that she must have been mistaken about the child's gender when he was a baby. She told herself that she must have had him confused with his brother George, who was about the same age.

Now, since Gaylord - Gay, as he was called - kept very much to himself, no one else realized that he was really a boy - or had been until the wicked Fairy came along. Naturally, Gay was very surprised when he discovered he had been changed, but since he was still too young at the time to realize the significance of what had happened to him, he merely accepted it with child-like simplicity and went right on acting like a boy . . . that is to say, climbing trees, chasing small animals in the woods, and smoking cinnamon sticks secretly in the wine cellar of the Castle.

Now, it was the custom in the Kingdom of Neglectland for young princes and princesses never to be seen in public until their fifteenth birthday, at which time they were formally presented in a grand celebration. This custom was very popular with the commoners because the King and Queen had so many children that there was sure to be a celebration each year and all the people had an extra holiday. However, Gaylord was to remember this celebration as the beginning of all his troubles.

To begin with, about two months before his fifteenth birthday, everyone took a sudden interest in him. A multitude

of new people came into his life overnight. There was someone to teach him etiquette and someone to teach him to walk gracefully and someone to teach him proper speech. Gay's life was a turmoil. What did they want of him? Why couldn't they just leave him alone? He was completely bewildered. At first he refused to have anything to do with the preparations and would stride around in frustration while his instructor nagged at him to take his hands out of his pockets. He glared at the lady who tried to show him how to hold his fork delicately "as a young lady of royalty should". But the final blow was when they made him discard his beloved riding breeches in favor of a lovely silk gown. Dismayed, he stood before the mirror, stamped his foot and declared that he didn't want to "look like a beautiful young princess".

But no one seemed to have any sympathy for Gay's situation and he finally decided it would be simpler to cooperate and get the whole miserable ordeal over with. So he tried very hard, and on the day of "Princess Gay's" presentation, he-she managed to get through the ceremonies without appearing too clumsy. All in all, it was a humiliating experience for him-her, and even after her presentation, she was seldom seen in public. (This was due mainly to the fact that she had to wear some silly gown even to drive through the streets in the royal carriage. The few times when she did go out, it was by the back way and in peasant-boy's clothes, so she wouldn't be recognized.) Unfortunately, Princess Gay's shyness only created an intriguing aura of mystery around her.

After the royal presentation, when all the fuss was over, Princess Gay could relax a little. But her peace did not last long. Foreign kings had begun to notice the young princess of Neglectland and thought that she would be a good match for their marriageable young princes. Suitors came from far and wide to beg for her hand in holy matrimony. At first, she managed to find some fault with each of her would-be fiances. But the King and Queen, who were ambitious of making political allies by the marriage of their many sons and daughters to other royal families, urged Gay to choose one of the young princes for her husband. You can imagine how distressing this was to Princess Gay, who was still Prince Gaylord in spite of his physical

change, and who had not the least desire to wed another prince!

One day, a certain Prince John from a nearby kingdom came to ask for Princess Gay's hand. This Prince John was very strong and very handsome and came from a very rich kingdom; consequently, he was also very confident and very vain, almost unbearable. When he escorted Princess Gay to the royal garden (the traditional place for young people to court and fall in love,) he wasted no time, but thinking he saw a note of interest in her eyes and feeling very sure of his ground, he immediately pulled her to him as if to kiss her. His nearness was nauseating to Gay, and without thinking, she pushed him away fiercely, somehow landing him in the royal lily pond. Each apologized later, but Gay wasn't really sorry. After all!

After the episode with Prince John, Princess Gay made it obvious that she wasn't to be won by any amount of courting. The King and Queen, who could be every bit as stubborn as she, decided to stage a Grand Ball and invite sovereigns from all over, with the object that Princess Gay should choose one of their royal guests as her fiance. They gave her a severe lecture, telling her that if she did not make her own choice on the night of the Ball, then they would have to choose for her. (They favored Prince John.) In any event, she was definitely to be married within six months.

On the night of the Grand Ball, Princess Gay was very distraught indeed. Her royal entrance was barely announced, when she stomped out to the garden, shoulders drooping and face pouting. And she was still sitting in that attitude when a soft voice asked "May I sit here?" Gay looked up, startled, and beheld the most unbelievably lovely girl standing before her.

"I'm Princess Marguerite of Wonderland, which is right next to your kingdom. I saw you come out here looking so unhappy that I just had to see if I couldn't cheer you up," the stranger said as she seated herself next to Gay.

Princess Gay was extremely shy and reticent at first, expecting the gracious young princess to make fun of her pe-

culiar ways; but eventually they got to talking and Princess Marguerite turned out to be so sympathetic and understanding that she had no trouble winning Gay's confidence. She heard all about the many suitors and Prince John and how the King and Queen were forcing her to choose a husband from among the guests at the Ball. In fact, she soon had the whole story of Prince Gaylord's transformation. Princess Gay had only once before told anyone this story, and she had been tormented about it so terribly that she never again tried to convince anyone that she had really been a boy. So she was both surprised and relieved when Princess Marguerite exclaimed, "How strange! The very same thing happened to my brother, Prince Alexander. We were little girls together - he was Princess Alice then - and one day when he was six and I was four, we were playing in the courtyard. No one else was around, but I saw this wicked Fairy you speak of. He came and made some strange gestures, and when he left, little Alice wasn't little Alice anymore. He's been Alex ever since. It was a terrible disgrace to the family, being royalty and all, but Mother and Father chose just to ignore it. Poor Alex! He's had the same kind of trouble that you have, only reversed, of course. No one would believe him either." It had never occurred to Gay that there might be anyone else like her.

The two young princesses were very silent for a while, each wrapped up in her own thoughts. Suddenly Princess Gay had a brilliant idea. "Princess Marguerite!" she exclaimed, jumping up from the small stone bench they were sitting on. "Do you suppose maybe Alex . . . ."

Princess Marguerite immediately saw what Gay was thinking and, grabbing her by the hand, led her off toward the ballroom. "Well, let's ask him," she said.

Six months later, Prince Alexander and Princess Gay were married in the Royal Palace. Immediately after the celebration, they went to live in their own little castle in the Kingdom of Wonderland. They lived together like two happy, innocent children, since neither cared to be husband and wife. In fact, theirs was really more of a brother-sister relationship . . . Gay the brother and Alex the sister.

The whole first year after Gay's "marriage" was wonderfully happy. She had never had any friends before and now

life was full and busy. Princess Marguerite often spent a week or two with them, and the three had gay, intimate little parties. Alex would flounce into the room in a lovely formal gown, exclaiming, "Oh, my dears, you just have no idea how glad I am to have you both here." This would set the other two off, and Gay, looking very princely in Alex's outgrown court clothes, would stride up to Princess Marguerite, bow extravagantly, and beg for the honor of the next dance. No princess could ever have asked for a more attentive escort than Marguerite's gallant "little Prince Gaylord". And so the party would go, with much laughter, much dancing and often a little too much wine - many times they had to escort each other upstairs to their royal bedchambers, in fact.

Yes, that first winter and summer had been a very happy time in Gay's life; but suddenly this fall something seemed changed. All at once Princess Marguerite - Marg, she had been dubbed - had some secret project that she wouldn't tell Gay anything about. And Alex was always busy writing his memoirs ("The Adventures of Alex in Wonderland", which later became a best-seller, you will recall). So Princess Gay found herself very much alone. She became morose and started taking long walks by day and long rides by night. And she started thinking about things too much, which is bad even for an ordinary person.

One day, returning from her lonely walk, Gay found the courtyard completely empty and quiet. Clad in the riding togs which she habitually wore, riding or not, she plumped herself down on the steps of the castle and, staring fixedly at the toe of her left boot, she soon fell into one of her most introspective moods. Never before had she felt so keenly the loss of her early masculine identity. Her thoughts ran somewhat as follows: "I would show them all, if I were still Prince Gaylord. He would have been tall and handsome by now, the hero of all the subjects of the kingdom. No one would have expected of him the things that I have to do, which are so against my nature. Always, I must either try to be a very prissy, unconvincing little princess or be my own self, subject to ridicule. Even the servants are snickering behind my back, though they think I don't know it. Prince Gaylord would have been able to hold fencing matches and join in the fox hunt or even lead the royal troops off

to the battlefield." But the worst - Gay couldn't get it off her mind - the worst was that Prince Gaylord could have courted and probably won the lovely Princess Marguerite. Yes, that was by far the worst. For weeks now, Gay had been trying to push this thought to the back of her mind, but her nights were filled with dreams in which her beloved Marg seemed to be laughing at her preposterous aspiration. Gay suddenly glanced up, and there - as if the thought had produced the image - stood Princess Marguerite. Gay looked quickly away, blushing and shamefaced, like a little boy caught stealing a cookie. But Princess Marguerite had already seen the wistful expression and asked, "What's wrong, little Prince Gaylord?"

Gay frowned forbiddingly.

"I have something for you," Marg said pertly, hoping to cheer her up.

"What is it?" Gay tried not to look too interested.

Marg held out something she had been hiding behind her back. "I made it all myself, just for you. It's just the thing for these long rides you've been taking at night . . . Alex told me about them. And I thought it might remind you to think of me once in a while," she added teasingly, as she unfolded a handsome cloak of a strange silvery material, suitable for any young prince. Her own delicate hands had spun and woven and sewn the whole garment and she was very proud of the results. "I hope it will keep you warm," she said sincerely, offering the gift.

"What difference does it make to you if I'm cold . . . or lonely, for that matter?" Gay blurted, pushing the present aside.

Marg looked hurt as if she had bent to kiss a dear hand and been slapped in the face for her trouble. "It makes a great deal of difference to me. After all, we are friends, aren't we?" Understanding a little, she added, "And I do care about you."

"I'm sorry. That was a terrible thing to say. And I'd no right to be angry just because . . that is . . Marg, I've

been so miserable without you. I mean, well, dammit, can't you <u>see</u> what's wrong? Marg, I'm in love with you!"

Kneeling beside her and speaking very gently and slowly, Marg asked, "What's wrong with that?"

"What's wrong with it? Look at me! I'm a GIRL, just a stupid GIRL!"

In an oddly deliberate tone, that familiar, reassuring voice began, "But you're not really a girl. There's not one feminine thing about you. You're strong and brave and true, and even in that ridiculous gown you were wearing when I first saw you, you somehow managed to look rather dashing. No, you're not really a girl; you're only living in the shell of one. And I won't have you running yourself down because of it. It's what you are inside - what you think and feel - that really counts. And it's that that I love you for." The words came fast now, tumbling over each other as if there were not time to say all that had been waiting to be said. "I do love you, little prince, the same way that you love me. I've wanted so to show you how much I care, but I was afraid I was too bold and that . . ." Somehow the two found their way into each other's arms. They clung closely together, trembling from long waiting and anxiety.

Perhaps we had better leave our young lovers at this point, lest we show the bad taste of prying too far into their intimacy. Let it suffice to say that Princess Marguerite soon came to live in Princess Gay's little castle and each found in the other the quiet excitement of Fulfillment. Over the years, Gay won quite a reputation as swordsman and equestrian, while Marg encouraged her fondly and indulgently from the sidelines. As for Prince Alex, he found a "terribly exciting" young man in the Village - about every six months. And they all lived happily ever after.

And oh yes, we might add that "Prince Gay" developed quite a following among certain select groups in the Villages, who used her name as their password. And even today, although very few people remember or ever knew its origin, the term "gay" is still used by those who have been changed by the wicked Fairy.

S. F. ELECTION AFTERMATH

THE CONVINCING 50,000 PLURALITY BY WHICH THE SAN FRANCISCO VOTERS RE-ELECTED MAYOR GEORGE CHRISTOPHER WOULD INDICATE THAT RUSSELL L. WOLDEN "QUEERED" HIS CHANCES WITH HIS MISGUIDED ATTEMPT TO BRING SEX DEVIATION FORWARD AS A CAMPAIGN ISSUE.

* * * * *

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS THOMAS A. TOOMEY NOTED THAT APPROXIMATELY 9,000 VOTERS WHO CAST BALLOTS IN THE ELECTION ABSTAINED WHEN IT CAME TO THE MAYORALTY RACE.

* * * * *

TWO OF ASSESSOR WOLDEN'S PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN AIDES EXCHANGED ANGRY VERBAL BRICKBATS IN THE WAKE OF THEIR CANDIDATE'S THUMPING DEFEAT. ADOLPH SCHUMAN, WEALTHY DRESS MANUFACTURER AND A TOP FINANCIAL BACKER, DECLARED HE WOULD "NEVER AGAIN PARTICIPATE IN A CAMPAIGN IN WHICH MR. HARRY LERNER IS CAMPAIGN MANAGER."

MR. SCHUMAN FAILED TO SPECIFY WHY - THOUGH IT WAS KNOWN THAT BOTH HE AND HOTELMAN BEN SWIG WERE "DISMAYED" WHEN WOLDEN CHARGED THAT SAN FRANCISCO IS A "HAVEN FOR HOMOSEXUALS".

LERNER WAS QUICK TO RETORT, "I HAD NO CHANCE TO RUN A CAMPAIGN. MR. SCHUMAN AND MR. SWIG STARVED THE CAMPAIGN. BOTH WERE DEFINITE LIABILITIES."

* * * * *

TAKING OF DEPOSITIONS FROM MR. WOLDEN AND WILLIAM BRANDHOVE BY WALTER WINTER, ATTORNEY IN THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY'S $1,103,500 SLANDER SUIT, HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

* * * * *

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY AND DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS HAVE IN NO WAY SUFFERED AS ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE ELECTION "SMEAR". ACTUALLY THE PUBLICITY BROUGHT THE GROUPS TO THE ATTENTION OF POTENTIAL MEMBERS WHO HAD NOT OTHERWISE BEEN AWARE OF THEIR EXISTENCE.

For a *Gay Christmas-*

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BACK ISSUES OF THE LADDER ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT 50¢ PER COPY.

THE 'GAY' BAR - WHOSE PROBLEM IS IT?

(Continued from page 13)

tional program to discourage Lesbians from dressing in male attire and to educate Lesbians to the fact that it is not in their self-interest to so attire themselves and that it simply encourages repressive action or conduct against them. One of the purposes of the organization is 'advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society', and emphasizing the importance of mode of behavior and acceptance of dress in establishing understanding with heterosexuals. It is very possible that in time such an educational program, in this area at least, will eliminate the questions raised by the particular attire of such patrons as those who frequented the Vallerga bar."

It is an incontrovertible fact that people are judged by other people on the basis of personal appearance and

behavior. And homosexuals, being people, base their own judgments of others on the same basis. Yet paradoxically many homosexuals would expect to be exempt simply because they are what they are.

The homosexual must learn that defiance in the face of a prejudiced society does not serve his ends, but rather it tends to justify and intensify the prejudice he would seek to eliminate. The homosexual must learn that he is a human being and citizen first, that his sexual orientation is secondary. The homosexual must learn that to live within the bounds of society does not necessarily imply conformity. The homosexual must learn that he is responsible for his own destiny.

- Del Martin

READERS RESPOND

"WELL! YOUR CURRENT ISSUE - NOVEMBER - HAS CERTAINLY MADE MY SUBSCRIPTION WORTHWHILE FINALLY, WHICH IS WHY I ENCLOSE NOW MY RENEWAL PAYMENT FOR NEXT YEAR, SOME SIX MONTHS OR SO IN ADVANCE.

"AND IT LOOKS AS THOUGH MY LETTER IN YOUR AUGUST ISSUE DID NO HARM - IT CERTAINLY BROUGHT COMMENT, WHICH IS WHAT YOU WANT. BUT RATHER THAN FILL YOUR ISSUES UP WITH THE CLAPTRAP AGAINST WHICH I COMPLAINED, AN ISSUE LIKE THIS, FILLED WITH INFORMATION AND FACTS, IS WHAT I HAVE WANTED."

J.R.G., NEW YORK

* * * * *

"LENNOX STRONG - IN THE AUGUST ISSUE YOU MENTION HAVING READ OVER 300 NOVELS ON THE SUBJECT (THIS SHOULD EXCLUDE MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS). BUT THIS IS MARVELOUS! I DIDN'T KNOW SO MANY WERE IN EXISTENCE. WHERE CAN WE GET A LIST OF THESE? IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US."

M.G., CALIFORNIA

THIS MONTH'S ISSUE BRINGS THE LIST OF "LESBIANA" ITEMS PUBLISHED IN THE LADDER TO 123. BACK COPIES OF THE MAGAZINE ARE AVAILABLE

FOR 50 CENTS EACH. ADDITIONALLY, EACH YEAR MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY, BOX 246, ROCHESTER, TEXAS, PUBLISHES A "CHECK LIST" OF TITLES. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE MISS STRONG CAN FORWARD US MORE DATA. - ED.

* * * * *

"I MIGHT TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PRAISE THE SHORT STORY 'LOVE IS A DANDELION' IN YOUR OCTOBER ISSUE. I THOUGHT THIS A PARTICULARLY WELL DONE STORY WITH A GREAT DEAL OF MOOD AND ATMOSPHERE. I WILL CERTAINLY BE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING OTHER STORIES BY JAY WALLACE."

R.S., CALIFORNIA

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gay bar

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THE LADDER: a monthly publication by the DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, INC., mailed first class in a plain sealed envelope for $4.00 per year.

CONTRIBUTIONS are gratefully accepted from anyone who wishes to assist us in our work. We are a non-profit corporation working entirely on donated labor. Our fees are not of such amounts as to allow for much expansion of the publication. While men may not become members of the DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, INC., many have expressed interest in our efforts and our publication and have made contributions to further our work. Of course, anyone over 21 years of age may subscribe to THE LADDER.

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